

matter or thing whatsoever to, or purchase any matter or thing whatsoever from, any poor, or other person entertained in the said alms and work-house, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds current money.

Sheriffs,
&c. to aid
trustees,
&c.

SEC. 20. *And be it enacted*, That all sheriffs, constables, and all other officers and ministers of justice, shall be aiding and assisting to the said trustees for the poor in the said county, and to all such officers as shall be employed by them, as by this act is directed, in the execution and performance of the said service.

General
issue plead-
able, &c.

SEC. 21. *And be it enacted*, That if any person or persons shall, at any time or times, be sued or prosecuted for any matter or thing by him or them done and executed in pursuance and execution of this act, or of any matter or thing in this act contained, such person or persons shall and may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence, for his or their defence; and if, upon trial, a verdict shall pass for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or discontinue his or their suit, then such defendant or defendants shall have and recover treble costs to him or them awarded against such plaintiff or plaintiffs, and if the plaintiff or plaintiffs is or are unable to satisfy the same, then it shall be paid and satisfied by the attorney who brought such suit, unless the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall give security for the costs, to be approved by the court in which such suit is brought.

Three
trustees to
be chosen
annually,
&c.

SEC. 22. *And*, to prevent individuals from being unreasonably burthened with the execution of this act as trustees for the poor, *Be it enacted*, That at the time of the meeting of the said trustees for the poor in the first week of November yearly, the said trustees, or the major part of them, in the county aforesaid, shall and may elect and choose three of the inhabitants of the said county, to be trustees for the poor of that county in the stead of the first three named or eldest of the said trustees of the same county, which said first named or eldest trustees shall be, and is by virtue hereof, thencefrom discharged from their office; and the said trustees, or a majority of them, are hereby empowered and required, as soon as the buildings aforesaid are ready for the accommodation and reception of the poor of the said county, to proceed to the appointment of an overseer, and other officers and servants as are mentioned in this act, and to do and perform every other matter and thing necessary to the carrying the said act into execution, according to the true intent and meaning thereof.